

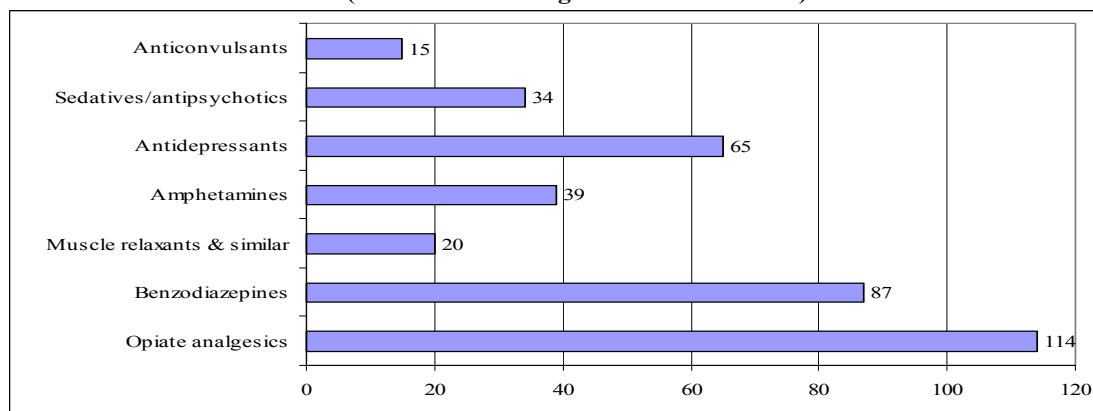
# Prescription Drugs

## **Maine Drug Use Fact Sheet – April 2005** Community Epidemiology Surveillance Network (CESN)

Prescription drug abuse is a significant problem in Maine. Among young people, “pharming”, a practice of mixing various prescription drugs into a container and randomly ingesting a handful of the drugs, is of great concern. For the elderly, multiple prescriptions may cause unintended consequences without close monitoring for drug interactions.

- *In 2003, the Maine Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported that prescription drugs caused 94% of overdose deaths.*
- *In 2004, 18% of the arrests made by Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and 21% of the drug-related prosecutions by the Attorney General involved prescription drugs.*
- *Opiates rank the highest among poisoning exposures due to selected prescription drugs in Maine.*

**Poisoning Exposures Due to Abuse and Withdrawal  
for Selected Prescription Drugs, 2004  
(Northern New England Poison Control)**



- *In 2004, the total number of prescription drug abuse treatment admissions were 1487, almost 3 times that in 2000.*

**Prescription drug related treatment admissions, 2000-2004  
(Treatment Data System, Office of Substance Abuse)**

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